

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. In this Response, **Claim 54** is currently amended. No new matter is added. Accordingly, favorable consideration of pending **Claims 29 - 54** is respectfully requested.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112**

*Claim 54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.*

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, and further requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. However, in a cooperative effort to expedite the present application to allowance, Applicant has currently amended **Claim 54**. This amendment should not be interpreted as acquiescence by the Applicant. No new matter has been added.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103**

*The outstanding Office Action rejects Claims 29-54 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Smith et al. (US 6,611,686; hereinafter "Smith") and Ross (US 6,961,562; hereinafter "Ross").*

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) because the claims of the present application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that since the priority date of the present application (March 30, 2000) is earlier than the U.S. filing date of Ross (June 19, 2002), then Ross does not qualify as prior art and therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is improper. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed above.

Respectfully Submitted,

BRUNDIDGE & STANGER, PC

Dated: April 9, 2012

/David S. Lee/

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